

Human Services Committee Hearing; HB200

January 19, 2015

Greetings Mr. Chairman; ladies and gentleman of the committee.

My name is George Paul. I am chairman of the Cascade County Republican Central Committee. After discussions with that group and on their behalf I rise in support of HB200.

I want to thank primary sponsor Rep. Randy Pinocci for having requested this bill. Rep. Pinocci and the co-sponsors are attempting through this legislation to provide additional support for people of need. The bill focuses only on certain welfare recipients; not all recipients, but those who are in especially difficult circumstances.

Through its screening and testing function HB200 will help place people who are in the throws of drug abuse into a situation of hope for health, self-pride, employment and a better life. Also, and perhaps more important, it can lead to a reduction of crime and violence and an increase in family security and safety.

This bill will both save and cost money. While some welfare payments may be reduced; there will be cost for treatment. But who would not trade outcomes; money spent to continue a failed lifestyle and threaten others or spent to develop real alternatives leading to a better life and a productive citizen.

This is a real life opportunity for you to either give them a fish or teach them to fish. This bill is an attempt not to punish welfare recipients but to strengthen them. This is not a partisan bill but a humanitarian bill. Support our humanity in Montana by voting to support HB200. Thank you.

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